

Germany to Fort Knox where he became a master gunner instructor. He excelled once again and was hand-picked for an exchange tour with the British Army as a tank instructor in Dorset, England. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston has served in every senior enlisted position in the Army, from platoon sergeant to command sergeant major. He held command sergeant major positions at 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division; then at 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, at 1st Armored Division, and finally at V Corps in Germany. Before becoming Sergeant Major of the Army, he was the command sergeant major for Combined Joint Task Force 7 serving in Baghdad, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His leadership and operational expertise were instrumental in planning and executing the attack on the forces of Saddam Hussein.

One of the most enduring contributions Sergeant Major Preston has made to our Nation was implementing the largest transformation of the Army's noncommissioned officer education system since the system was first developed. As the backbone of the Army, noncommissioned officers have specific education requirements throughout their career. The Advance and Senior Level Courses now are more in line with what our leaders need in Afghanistan and Iraq. With the roll out of Structured Self-Development, an on-line module system that will ensure our noncommissioned officers receive the best training, noncommissioned officers are better educated, which pays huge dividends on the battlefield. Also, with new distributed learning, the Army's first-line leaders are able to spend more time at home with their families while taking classes online.

Over the last 7 years, Sergeant Major of the Army Preston served as the Sergeant Major of the Army, the highest enlisted position attainable in the Army. He assumed this position during the first year of Operation Iraqi Freedom and proved himself a tremendous wartime leader, demonstrating unselfish devotion to our Nation and the soldiers. He worked tirelessly to restore balance to a force stretched and stressed by the demands of the longest war our Nation has ever known. His personal observations and advice helped guide Army leadership during the implementation of the most comprehensive transformation of the Army since World War II. The end result was building of the most versatile Army in the history of our Nation. Its modular units and improved capabilities enabled the Army to execute its strategy of full-spectrum operations. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston was instrumental in ensuring that this plan adhered to principles of commonsense and care for soldiers and their families. He worked with Army leadership to increase support to families by implementing the Army Family Covenant and the Army Community Covenant. These programs increased support for Army families by expanding and improving services while raising aware-

ness about the unique challenges military families face. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston testified numerous times before Congress on behalf of the 1.1 million soldiers and millions of family members under his care. His clear and passionate testimony resulted in increased compensation, improved housing, improved health services and an overall better quality of life.

The impact of Sergeant Major of the Army Preston's efforts will be felt and seen in our Army for decades to come. His untiring devotion to duty, his love for the Army and its soldiers and families, and his professionalism has left a legacy of trained and educated soldiers. When history looks back at the Army's 13th Sergeant Major of the Army, it will be clear that his personal leadership contributed to the building of the most professional Non-Commissioned Officer Corps the world has ever known. We wish him and his wife Karen continued success and happiness in all of their future endeavors.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 830. An act to rescind the unobligated funding for the FHA Refinance Program and to terminate the program.

H.R. 836. An act to rescind the unobligated funding for the Emergency Mortgage Relief Program, and to terminate the program.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 830. An act to rescind the unobligated funding for the FHA Refinance Program and to terminate the program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 836. An act to rescind the unobligated funding for the Emergency Mortgage Relief Program and to terminate the program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-868. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus thuringiensis eCry3.1Ab Protein in Corn; Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8866-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-869. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting pursuant to law, the 2010 Packers and Stockyards Program Annual Report; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-870. A communication from the Commissioners of the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Interim Report to Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-871. A communication from the Director, Pentagon Renovation and Construction Program Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for the year ending March 1, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-872. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Human Reliability Program: Identification of Reviewing Official" (RIN1992-AZ00) received in the office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-873. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Certification, Compliance, and Enforcement for Consumer Products and Commercial and Industrial Equipment" (RIN1904-AC23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-874. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Test Procedure for Microwave Ovens" (RIN1904-AB78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-875. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revisions to the Open Burning Regulations" (FRL No. 9278-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-876. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of One-Year Extension for Attaining the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard in the Baltimore Moderate Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9278-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 9, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-877. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,